

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to place them in more acceptable U.S. claim style and/or to reduce the filing fees, without prejudice.

The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent applications and the abstract.

Return of an initialed copy of the attached PTO 1449 Form, pursuant to MPEP § 609, is requested.

Acceptance of the attached drawings is requested.

An early and favorable action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



B. J. Sadoff  
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:pp  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100